

RMH10918

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A guard for restricting access to a rack of goods which comprises:

a horizontally expandable access-restricting cover having an open bottom, a left side to which is mounted a track means for engaging, and a right side to which is mounted a track means for engaging;

a left extensible member comprising a track means for engaging which is engageable with the track means for engaging of said left side so as to slide, in a substantially vertical direction, said left extensible member from a retracted storage position to an extended use position;

a right extensible member comprising a track means for engaging which is engageable with the track means for engaging of said right side so as to slide, in a substantially vertical direction, said right extensible member from a retracted storage position to an extended use position; and

a horizontally expandable bottom member having a left end securable to a lower end of said left extensible member, and a right end securable to a lower end of said right extensible member.

Claim 2 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said horizontally expandable access-restricting cover comprises a horizontally telescoping structural unit comprising at least two telescoping members.

Claim 3 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said horizontally expandable access-restricting cover comprises a horizontally telescoping structural unit comprising at least three telescoping members.

RMH10918

Claim 4 (original): The guard of claim 2 wherein said telescoping members are cylindrical.

Claim 5 (original): The guard of claim 2 wherein said telescoping members are rectangular.

Claim 6 (original): The guard of claim 5 wherein said telescoping members comprise box tubing.

Claim 7 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said horizontally expandable bottom member comprises a horizontally telescoping structural unit comprising at least two telescoping members.

Claim 8 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said horizontally expandable bottom member comprises a horizontally telescoping structural unit comprising at least three telescoping members.

Claim 9 (original): The guard of claim 8 wherein said horizontally expandable bottom member comprises a central member in a nestable relationship with a left slidable plate and a right slidable plate whose distal ends are securable to said lower end of said left extensible member and said lower end of said right extensible member, respectively.

Claim 10 (original): The guard of claim 9 wherein said central member is a plate comprising folded over edges which provide a track in which said left slidable plate and said right slidable plate can be nested.

Claim 11 (original): The guard of claim 10 in which said left slidable plate and said right slidable plate each comprise a longitudinal slot and said central member comprises a left hole and a right hole in alignment with said respective

RMH10918

longitudinal slots, through each of which holes is placed a bolt secured with a nut, so as to fix said slidable plates in relation to said central member.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The guard of claim 1 wherein at least one of said side-mounted track means for engaging comprises at least one pin including a shaft and a head and said extensible member associated with said side-mounted track means for engaging includes a longitudinal slot whose width exceeds the largest cross-sectional dimension of said shaft and is less than the width of said head, said extensible member being positioned between said side member and said head such that the shaft of said pin is located within said slot and said extensible member is secured to said side by said head, such that the extensible member can be extended in at least a downward direction.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The guard of claim 12 wherein each said side-mounted track means for engaging comprises at least two of said pins.

Claim 14 (original): The guard of claim 12 wherein a buffer surface is attached between each side and each said extensible member to reduce friction between same.

Claim 15 (original): The guard of claim 14 wherein said buffer surface is selected from the group comprising nylon and polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 16 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said bottom member is securable to at least one of said extensible members by a reversibly securing means which is selected from the group consisting of padlock and hasp, deadbolt, and cam lock.

Claim 17 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said bottom member is reversibly securable to at least one of said extensible members by a reversibly securing means which comprises padlock and hasp.

RMH10918

Claim 18 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said cover is shaped to conform to a terraced arrangement of goods.

Claim 19 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein said cover is shaped to conform to a terraced arrangement of bottles.

Claim 20 (original): The guard of claim 1 wherein the bottom of said left side and the bottom of said right side each comprises a channel adapted to fit onto a surface of said rack.

Claim 21 (original): The guard of claim 20 wherein said channel is padded.

Claim 22 (original): The guard of claim 2 wherein a) the outer ends of the telescoping members are capped and/or b) each junction of the interior ends of the telescoping members is collared to increase friction between the interior ends of each junction.

Claim 23 (original): The guard of claim 22 wherein the outer ends of the telescoping members are each capped with a plastic cap and each junction of the interior ends of the telescoping members is collared with a plastic collar.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A guard for securing a rack of goods which comprises:

- an access-restricting left vertical side member to which is mounted an engageable track means for engaging;
- an access-restricting right vertical side member to which is mounted an engageable track means for engaging;
- an access-restricting front member at least partially disposed between or upon, and attachable to, said side members;

RMH10918

an access-restricting rear member at least partially disposed between or upon, and attachable to, said side members;

an access-restricting upper member at least partially disposed between or upon, and attachable to, said side members;

a left extensible member comprising a track means for engaging which is engageable with the track means for engaging of said left vertical side member to permit sliding, in a substantially vertical direction, said left extensible member from a retracted storage position to an extended use position;

a right extensible member comprising a track means for engaging which is engageable with the track means for engaging of said right vertical side member to permit sliding, in a substantially vertical direction, said right extensible member from a retracted storage position to an extended use position;

a bottom member having a left end securable to the lower end of said left extensible member, and a right end securable to the lower end of said right extensible member; and further wherein

said front member, said rear member, said upper member and said bottom member are horizontally expandable.

Claim 25. (Canceled)